

ABSTRACT

A switch element is configured to extend communications between data lines. The switch element has an ingress stage, a center stage, and an egress stage. The switch element connects to two sets of data lines. Time slots are identified on each set of data lines. Time slots from one set of data lines are assigned to ingress and egress edges on a center stage device. The time slots from each set of data lines are also mapped to one another, so that each time slot in one set of data lines is mapped to only one corresponding time slot in the other set of data lines.

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